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## Public comments on asbestos situation in township

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Staff Writer

**SSAIC TWP.** — After dangerous levels of asbestos were found on two properties in Meyersville late last month, the sites' owners were advised to voluntarily relocate. To keep the public from contact with the asbestos, the Environmental Protection Agency posted signs prohibiting access to the properties. Exposure to asbestos has been shown to cause lung cancer and other diseases, asbestosis. The problem has its roots with an asbestos siding manufacturer, now based in Millington, which used two sites as asbestos dumpsites about 20 years ago. National Asbestos Clearing, Inc., has since closed down and declared a Superfund site by

the federal government, with the two dumping grounds categorized as asbestos sites.

Visitors to Hill View Farm in Meyersville, owned by Eleanor and Edward Kielblock, were asked if they had known about the asbestos problem in the township and if they were concerned about potential health hazards.

Apparently the only Meyersville residents who were unaware of the situation were newcomers to the area.

Most of the people were well aware of the presence of large quantities of asbestos in Meyersville, but despite the potential health threat no one seemed particularly concerned.

Dorothy Fox is a newcomer to Millington. She had heard about the asbestos from the newspaper reports but seemed shocked listening to others talk about the presence of asbes-

tos in the area.

"We live adjacent to the (Green) Swamp in a newer home. My husband has dug in the yard (for flower beds) and never saw anything."

She expressed many people's frustration when she said, "God! High taxes, asbestos, Central School has problems. You can't build on your property and need permits to fill." She shook her head as she left.

Millington resident Kathryn Schuler said she knew that "asbestos was left on the (Passaic) River bank and covered with something" years ago when the factory was operating.

She speculated that a lot of the asbestos must have found its way into the river and contaminated it. She also remembered that asbestos was found during the construction of the sewage treatment plant.

Schuler lives in a house built in the early 1900's and was fairly certain

that there was no asbestos on her property.

"I wouldn't test our home, we aren't near the factory."

Told that the posted signs were near the factory site, she suggested that asbestos had been brought in at fill years ago. "I heard it was used for driveways all the time."

She was unaware of the Superfund site but when told about it laughed and said sardonically, "Move to the country and see what happens."

Longtime Gillette resident Patrick Stefanski said "I heard about it years ago. An oldtimer told me it was used for fill in Passaic Township, but especially here in Meyersville."

Martha Urbanaki, a Meyersville resident and owner of the Trading Post, seemed amused by the question. "Asbestos in Meyersville? I see (Please see Residents on page 12.)"

## Township

(Continued)

also would be located in Stirling, and one would be active and the other passive.

Another site would be at the Sanjour Children's housing complex off Valley Road near the intersection of Main Avenue in Stirling. It would include a garden area and benches.

Another site would be near the Millington Station Cafe on Division Avenue in Millington. It would be passive, and would include landscaping and benches.

A park at Francine Place and Waverly Avenue in Millington would be active.

Finally, the Hicks tract on Largo Drive in Millington would be active, and would have a pathway system.

L. Leonard of the Planning Advisory Committee commented that "we also envision that the affected neighborhoods could help in the design of this park."

The Planning Advisory Committee needs \$4,200 from the Township Committee to cover the cost of applying for the loan from Green Acres.

Township Committee members indicated that they would decide on the matter at a later meeting.

—By FRANK SULLIVAN  
Staff Writer

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